ECE Highlights

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE No. 20 January 1994

YVES BERTHELOT APPOINTED EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Yves Berthelot, a national of France, has been appointed Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, by the Secretary General of the United Nations, with effect from 1 October 1993.

Prior to joining ECE, Mr. Berthelot was Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) since 1985. He is Chairman of the Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions established by the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Mr. Berthelot joined the French civil service in 1963 and served in a number of important positions in the Office of the Commissioner for Planning, in the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies, and in the Ministry of Cooperation. From 1978 to 1981, he was head of research at the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and from 1981 to 1985, Director of the Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Information Internationales (CEPII), a French research institute on the world economy.

Mr. Berthelot studied mathematics and physics at the Ecole Polytechnique in Paris and economics at the National School of Economic Administration and Statistics. He is a member of the International Society for Development and has been President of the European Association of Development Institutes. He has been a member of the Group of Experts on Quantitative Questions of the Commission of the European Community.

Yves Berthelot

ECE HOLDS SPECIAL SESSION TO NOMINATE NEW CHAIRMAN

The ECE held a special session on 26 November 1993 in order to designate a new Chairman of the Commission upon the resignation of Ambassador Bernard Miyet who left his post as Permanent Representative of France this summer. The Commission designated Vice-Chairman Ambassador Ludwik Dembinsky of Poland to serve as Chairman for the forthcoming forty-ninth session of the Commission. Ambassador Dembinsky has been Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva since 23 July 1992. The Commission also elected as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Ulrich Rosengarten, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the UN Office at Geneva.

Addressing the Commission for the first time, the new Executive Secretary, Mr. Yves Berthelot, shared his thoughts with the Commission on its future role in a period of change in the ECE region. One of the major tasks of the ECE was to assist the countries in transition to find the system best adapted to their particular situation. The Commission's role during this period of economic and political uncertainty and institutional competition was to be a place of sustained dialogue for the promotion of European integration and cooperation. The Secretariat would focus its attention on the Commission's contribution to European integration, but the problem of worldwide integration would not be overlooked. An effective Commission also depends on confidence in and transparency of its activities. The Executive Secretary assured the Commission that he would reinforce the dialogue between the ECE secretariat and delegations to achieve this goal.

Gerald Hinteregger reaches the end of his mandate and emphasizes commitment of UN/ECE members to the role of the Commission

Gerald Hinteregger was the sixth head of the ECE Secretariat (1987-1993). The portraits of his predecessors, Klaus Sahlgren (1983-1986), Janez Stanovnik (1968-1982), Vladimir Velebit (1960-1967), Sakari Tuomioja (1957-1960) and Gunnar Myrdal (1947-1957) appear in the background. This photograph was taken in 1987 when Ambassador Franz Ceska of Austria presented the Final Document of the Vienna Follow-up Conference of the CSCE to Mr. Hinteregger.

Relinquishing his functions as Executive Secretary of the ECE on 30 September 1993 after six and a half years in office, Mr. Gerald Hinteregger looked back over the period during which the ECE region has undergone the most profound changes in its post-war history. Revolutionary events in central and eastern Europe, the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and COMECON, the disintegration of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia and the separation of the Czech and Slovak Republics, as well as the integration processes in the western parts of the region, have posed enormous challenges and afforded new opportunities, both to the ECE countries and to the international organizations and institutions active in the region.

Mr. Hinteregger stated that the UN/ECE has risen to the occasion. Member countries have shown the strength and the will to give new direction and impetus to the work of the Commission, not only by clearly defining priority areas, but also by designating assistance to countries in transition to market economies and their integration into the European and world economies as major objectives of the Commission.

In Mr. Hinteregger's view, the greatest challenge ahead for the ECE may be integrating the great number of new member countries into its work. For the future work of the ECE, the outgoing Executive Secretary expressed the hope that systematic use continue to be made of the ECE as a pan-European forum for elaborating region-wide legal instruments, strategies, standards and recommendations; that more effective use be made of its highly regarded analytical work and special studies in many areas; thirdly, that the ECE's efforts to render assistance to countries in transition enjoy greater support from donor countries; and lastly, that the work of the Commission receive attention at the policy-making level and in the information media in member countries.

Greater industry and government involvement in Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones

The Energy Efficiency 2000 Project (EE 2000) of the ECE, which has been supported by government contributions during its first two years of operation, is now attracting more support from private investors. Since the onset of the three-year Project in 1991, industry has become increasingly committed to the activities of the Project, especially to the Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones. The expanded participation of western businesses and government technical assistance programmes in the Demonstration Zones has been a result of carefully identified investment opportunities arising from economic reforms in central and eastern Europe.

Recent meetings held in Washington between senior Russian and American delegations have confirmed greater participation by the U.S. Government and industries in the UN/ECE Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones located in Moscow. An eight-man Russian delegation met with a U.S. host delegation led by the Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy, Mr. Ernest M. Stewart, on 8-10 September 1993. The Russian-American Commission headed by Vice-President Gore and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, met in Washington on 30 August to 1 September. The meeting reviewed the Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zone proposals for six sites located in and near Moscow. It recommended that 50 million dollars be provided by the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Eximbank). It was also recommended that one or two energy conservation projects in Russia of up to $5 million could be financed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on existing credit lines with Russian banks in Moscow. In addition, the IFC representative indicated its intention to apply its resources from the Global Environment Facility to projects in the Energy Efficiency Demonstration Zones. A consortium of British manufacturing and service industries is also preparing to undertake significant operations in the Moscow Demonstration Zones.

Croatia signs two agreements on European transport infrastructure

Ambassador Miomir Zuzul, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva, signed two agreements elaborated within the ECE on major European transport infrastructure projects: the Trans-European North-South Motorway (TEM) and the Trans-European Railway (TER).

Trans-European North-South Motorway

The TEM Project is an ECE-sponsored intergovernmental cooperation project for the development of a selected international motorway network in the central and eastern parts of Europe. Initially conceived as a North-South corridor, it recently incorporated east-west links following political changes in the region, forming a network of more than 20,000 km. Upon completion, the TEM network will stretch from the Baltic to the Mediterranean and Black Seas as well as to the eastern parts of Turkey. With Croatia, the number of countries participating in the project has risen to eleven.

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Trans-European Railway

The TER Project, like TEM, has also incorporated east-west links. Since the physical plan of the TER network is already in place, the TER is concentrating on upgrading the existing rail infrastructure and on developing a combined transport-related infrastructure. At present, there are five Parties to the Agreement—Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Turkey—with a number of other countries participating in certain Project activities.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Impressive increase in the number of foreign investment projects in central and eastern Europe

During the first quarter of 1993, the total number of foreign investment registrations in the former CMEA region grew by over 7,000, reaching 72,300. At the beginning of 1992, total foreign investment registrations in the region stood at slightly over 31,000. This statistical information on the growth of foreign investment projects in central and eastern Europe is contained in issue No. 2 of *East-West Investment News*. The most spectacular growth in the number of foreign investment projects was recorded in Romania where 23,500 had been registered at the end of March 1993. The Newsletter also provides up-to-date information on national currencies in circulation in the successor states of the USSR, as well as an analysis of recent publications covering such issues as defence conversion, management training, economic aid, legal problems, and founding joint-ventures, in the countries of eastern and central Europe.

East-West Investment News, No. 2. Annual subscription (4 issues) US$ 80.00. Single copy: US$ 20.00.

Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition

An ECE Workshop on Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition held in Hungary, October 1992, considered the new role of governments in the economies in transition in industrial policy-making and industrial restructuring and the action governments need to take in order to encourage the process of restructuring. The principal papers of this Workshop have now been published. They deal with national industrial policy and regional influences; industrial policy and its role in accelerating economic development; enterprise restructuring and privatization in the context of industrial policy and the role of foreign investments; and methods and means of industrial policy.

Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition

Available free of charge upon request from the ECE Information Office.

Forest Products Markets in 1992-1993

In 1992, forest products markets generally improved in Europe and North America, but continued to decline in the former USSR. For 1992, after the decreases in 1991, apparent consumption increased in Europe by 0.6% and in North America by 5.6%. In North America, apparent consumption of forest products followed the gradual economic recovery, especially in the United States housing construction sector. Improvements in 1992 over 1991 came in the wood-based panel market, up 9.2%, sawn softwood, up 7.7%, sawn hardwood, up 10.0% and paper and paper board, up 2.9%. These are among the major findings of the Annual Forest Products Market Review 1992-1993, published by the ECE and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) which analyses and informs about recent developments in the forest products markets of the ECE region in 1992 and the first half of 1993.

Annual Forest Products Market Review 1992-1993, Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLVI, No. 3, September 1993, ISSN 0259-4323.

Connections

The ECE has just launched the first edition of its newsletter *Connections* which is a key source of information on what is going on with regard to UN/EDIFACT and trade facilitation. The current issue highlights the Asian EDIFACT Board, with articles on EDI in Japan, Malaysia, the Peoples Republic of China and the economy of Chinese Taipei. It also contains a variety of articles, some of which emphasize the users' views, others of which present progress in the regions and discuss positive and negative experiences in implementing the recommendations of the Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures, a subsidiary body of ECE's Committee on the Development of Trade. The United Nations Rules for Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport--UN/EDIFACT—comprise a set of standards, directories and guidelines for the electronic interchange of structured data between independent computerized information systems. *Connections* is available on request from the ECE Information Office.

OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

AGRICULTURE AND TIMBER

Agricultural Review for Europe No. 35, 1991 and 1992, The Livestock and Meat Market (ECE/AGRI/123 — Vol. III), Sales No. E.93.II.E.19. Price: US$ 35.00.

GENERAL

Economic Commission for Europe Annual Report (E/1993/37/E/ECE/1284), Supplement No. 17: 16 April 1992-27 April 1993. ISSN 0251-0197. Price: US$ 28.00.

Discussion Papers, Vol. 2 (1992) No. 4: Economics and Environment in the Former Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia, Sales No. GV.E.93.0.11. Price: US$ 60.00.

ENERGY

Gas Networks in Europe: Interconnection and Extension, ECE Energy Series No. 13. Sales No. GV.E.93.0.10.

The Coal Situation in the ECE Region in 1992 and Global Prospects for Coal (ENERGY/WP.1/R.27 and Add.1).

ENVIRONMENT AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Chailenge for the 90s — Human Settlements (ECE/HBP/87).

Housing Policy Guidelines — The experience of ECE with special reference to countries in transition (ECE/HBP/84), Sales No. E.93.II.E.15, Price: US$ 18.00.

Timber Bulletin, Vol. XLVI, No. 2: Forest products statistics 1988-1992. ISSN 0259-4323.

Forest Conditions in Europe (Results of the 1992 Survey). Executive Report 1993. Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution. International Co-operative Programme on Assessment and Monitoring of Air Pollution Effects on Forests. (ECE and Commission of the European Communities.

STATISTICS

Report of the forty-first plenary session of the Conference on European Statisticians (ECE/CES/43).

Annual Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe 1993, Vol. XXVI, Sales No. E/F/R.93.II.E.14. Price: US$ 35.00.

Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics for Europe, Vol. XXXVII, Sales No. E/F/R.93.II.E.11. Price: US$ 35.00.

INDUSTRY

The Chemical Industry in 1992, Annual Review, Production and Trade Statistics 1989-1991. Sales No. E.93.II.E.27. Price: US$ 42.00.

The Steel Market in 1992, Sales No. E.93.II.E.30. Price: US$ 40.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ECE Calendar

Selected Events

All meetings listed are held in Geneva unless otherwise indicated.

1994

January

17(pm)-20	Meeting of Experts on Pollution and Energy
17-21	INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
24-26	Working Party on Gas
24-28	Work Session on the European Comparison Programme for Transition Countries (OECD, Paris, France)
26-27	Joint Working Group on Environment and Economics

February

1 - 4	Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport
2 - 4	Ad hoc Group of Experts on Inland Waterways Infrastructure
7(pm)-10	Working Party on Water Problems
21(pm)-24	Meeting of Signatories to the Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context

March

1-3	Committee on the Development of Trade
7-9	Working Group on Restructuring of the ADR
8 -11	Working Party on the Construction of Vehicles
14-17	Meeting on Statistics of Household Income
14-18	Joint Meeting of the RID Safety Committee and the Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Bern, Switzerland)
15-17	Work Session on Statistical Output for Dissemination to Information Media (Oslo, Norway)
15-18	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures
23-25	Meeting of the Signatories to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Budapest, Hungary)
24-25	Working Group on Combined Transport

WHERE TO ORDER

The publications listed with sales prices may be ordered from: **United Nations Bookshop, Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland** and a number of bookstores in the ECE region. Send cheque or money order in US dollars made payable to: UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS.

Those publications listed without a sales price may be obtained from the Information Officer, Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

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ECE Highlights provides a round-up of news and information on major ECE events and publications and is available free of charge from the Information Officer.

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